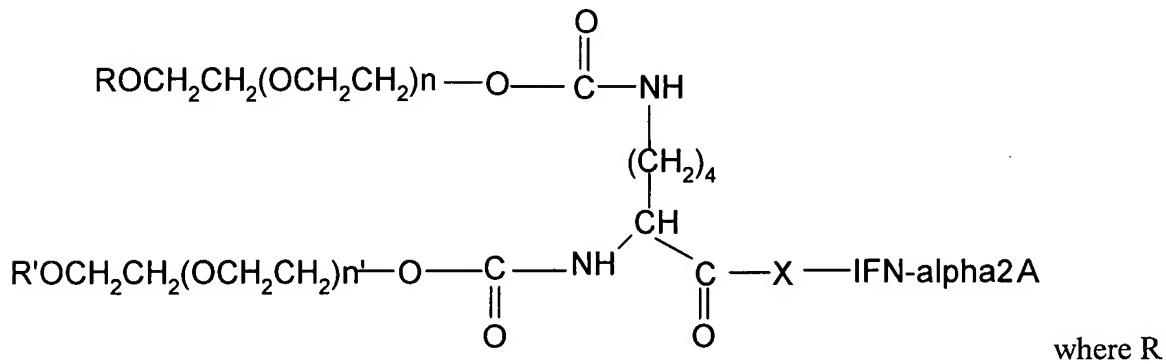


In the claims:

Please cancel claims 1-5 and 10.

1-5. (Cancelled)

6. (Originally presented) A method for treating chronic hepatitis C infections comprising administering a PEG-IFN- α conjugate having the formula:



and R' are methyl, X is NH, and n and n' are individually or both either 420 or 520,

and ribavirin concurrently in amounts effective to treat chronic hepatitis C infection.

7. (Originally presented) The method according to claim 6 wherein the PEG-IFN- α 2A conjugate is administered in an amount of about 33 to about 540 mcg per week.

8. (Originally presented) The method according to claim 7 wherein the ribavirin is administered in an amount of about 400 to about 1200 mg daily.

9. (Originally presented) The method according to claim 6 wherein at least one daily dose of ribavirin is administered within the same week as at least one dose of the PEG-IFN- α 2A conjugate.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Originally presented) The method according to claim 8 wherein from about 150 μ g to about 250 μ g of the PEG-IFN- α 2A conjugate is administered once a week for at least one week and from about 800 mg to about 1200 mg of ribavirin is administered daily during the same at least one week the PEG-IFN- α 2A conjugate is administered.

12. (Originally presented) The method according to claim 8 wherein about 180 μ g of the PEG-IFN- α 2A conjugate is administered once a week for 48 weeks and from about 400 mg to

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cont

about 600 mg of ribavirin is administered twice daily during the same 48 weeks the PEG-IFN-
 α 2A conjugate is administered.